

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 8, 12 and 13. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a recording/reproducing mixer. The mixer can perform processing including equalizing, volume control and adding effects. The mixer has a listening mode which allows the user – through a simple operation – to listen to a recorded track without any such processing by the mixer, *i.e.*, in its “raw” state. This is advantageous over conventional mixers which required the user to laboriously cancel such processing settings.

Applicants have amended claim 8 to more clearly recite that a track selected for the listening mode is not supplied to the processing device. Specifically, claim 1 recites “a processing device that performs processing including equalizing, volume control and adding effects to audio signals from the selected input channels” and an output controller that “controls, for the listening mode, the output device to output the audio signal directly from the track selected by the track selector by diverging the audio signal before inputting the audio signal to the processing device without supplying the audio signal to the processing device.”

The Examiner rejected the pending claims as being anticipated by Roland’s VS-1680 Owner’s Manual. The Examiner cited to Roland at pages 75-77 and 103-105 relating to the equalizer switch and external effects. Roland discloses at page 76 that the equalizer switch enables or disables the equalizer for a given channel, while Roland at page 105 discloses inserting or not inserting an effect after equalization. It appears that the Examiner considers turning off equalization or an effect as meeting the last recitation of claim 8. However, in both cases, the processing device of the mixer in Roland that performs these functions is still being employed to produce a signal without equalization or effect. The user is simply canceling the processing settings for equalization and effect for that signal. In contrast, in the present invention as claimed, such a processing device is not used at all for the audio signal corresponding to the selected track. Claim 8 specifically recites “diverging the audio signal before inputting the audio signal to the processing device without

supplying the audio signal to the processing device.” In this way, the user does not have to cancel any processor settings to listen to an audio signal without various processing. This is an important advantage over conventional mixers such as Roland. Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated by Roland.

Claims 9-11 depend from claim 9 and are thus not anticipated by Roland for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 8.

Claims 12 and 13 recite “selecting the input channels and performing processing, said processing including performing equalizing, volume control and adding effects to audio signals from the selected input channels” and “outputting, for the listening mode, the audio signal directly from the at least one track selected by the step (j) by diverging the audio signal before inputting the audio signal for said processing without supplying the audio signal for said processing.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 13 are likewise patentable over Roland.

Finally, Applicants have amended paragraph 0088 of the specification to add the phrase “the recorder input 252c.” It is believed that no new matter as the phrase is consistent with Fig. 7 (see top), the brief description of Fig. 7 in the specification at paragraph 0024 and further descriptions at paragraphs 0048 and 0053 and Fig. 2.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any

required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032027100.

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